

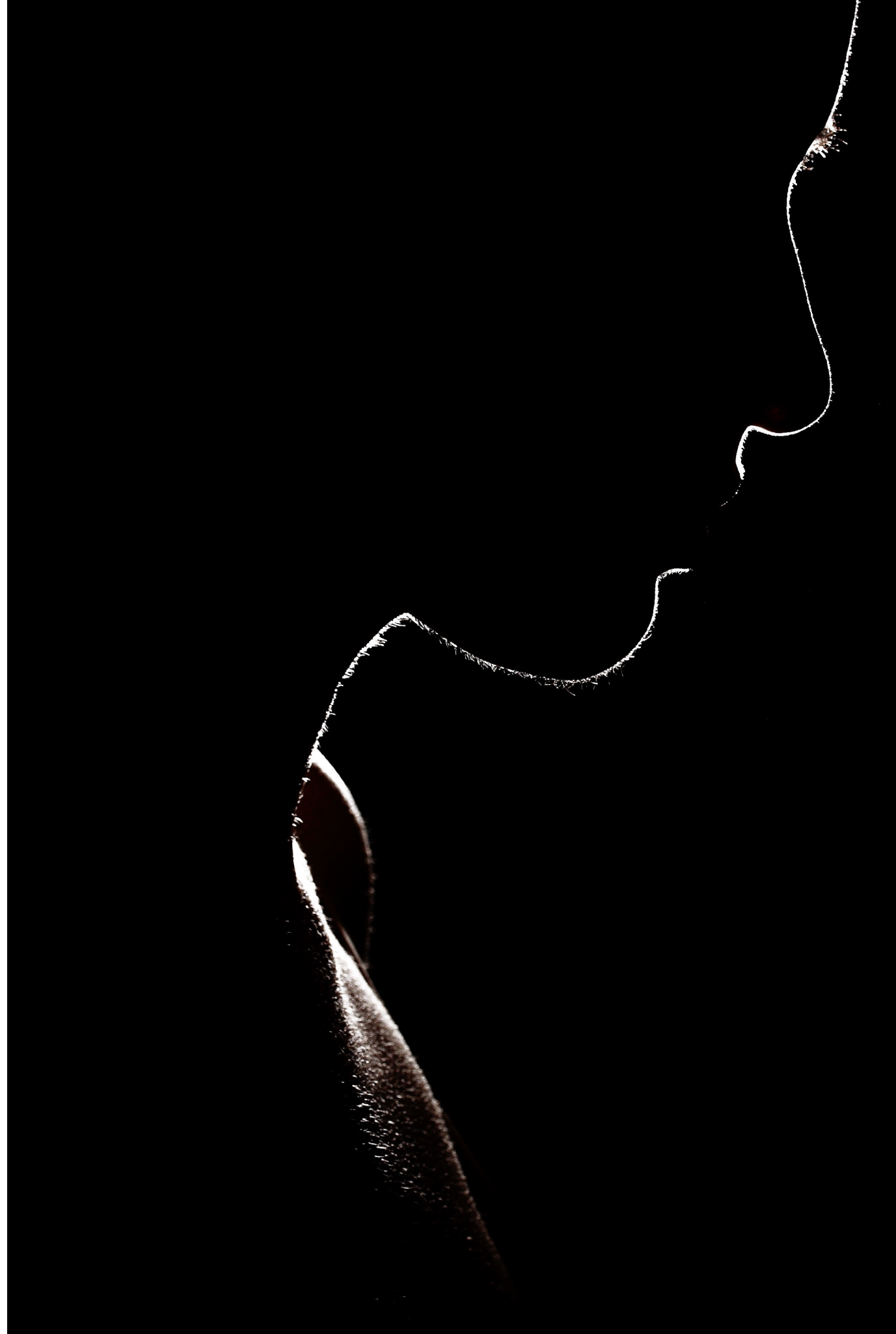


FILL THE FRAME

EXAMPLES

One of the most widespread mistakes photographers make is including too much space in the image frame.

When too much empty space is included the viewer is left to decide where to look. The viewer might decide to look elsewhere and we don't want that, do we? Let's have a look at a few examples so you understand what I am saying a bit better.





This photo could be very nice but there are two problems. First, my eye goes directly to the blue sky instead of the man jumping high above the hill. This is a big mistake on the part of the photographer who captured this image. The eye goes to the wrong place. Additionally, the perspective is entirely wrong. For this image to be stronger, the photographer should have zoomed in or moved closer to the jumping man. It could help also if the photographer had gotten lower to give a sense of how high the jumper is jumping.



There is one other slight problem, which as a professional I see right away and that is - there are spots or smudges that are visible. If ever you plan to show your photos to other people be sure there are no spots visible on your image.



The photographer captured a nice silhouette, but overall this image is sort of boring. There is too much space and little feeling when looking at this image. This image could have been a King or Queen of the Hill moment if captured correctly, but instead it is a fail. Again, moving closer or zooming in could have made this photo powerful. The photographer missed an opportunity.



Lastly, this photo is a wee bit dark but I have to ask. Are we supposed to be looking at the mountains, the foreground or the lady walking directly in the middle? Two rules are broken here. The person in the middle - which is a no-no and far too much space around her. In addition, the tall twigs in the foreground are distracting. The result is an uninteresting photo and an image with poor photo composition.



Filling the frame of an image is an effective technique for strong photo composition.

When you fill the frame and leave little empty space what you are doing is creating a definite focal point. When a viewer looks at your image their eye goes directly to where you want the eye to go.



There are three elements in this photo that make it beautiful. First the frame is filled with the man's legs. They are sort of skinny legs but they do fill the frame and this is exactly what you want when trying to achieve strong photo composition. The second element is the dust floating and reflecting in the air. This helps tell a story of sorts or at least makes you wonder what else is happening. There is some sort of mystery which engages the viewer. Finally, the ray of golden light is stunning. Overall, this is a brilliant example of excellent photo composition.



Where does your eye go first in this image? The tattooed hands, obviously, though the viewer's eyes move from the jacket buttons to the subject's fingers and then onto the multiple rings on the hands. This is remarkable isn't it? The frame is filled effectively and the implied lines created by the copper colored buttons lead the viewer's eye directly where the photographer wants you to look. This is a fantastic example of filling the frame and its effectiveness.



While a bit dark, there is enough light in the background and on the man's back to make this image quite beautiful. What's more is the frame is filled and the nice use of natural light leads your eye directly to the man's back. Also notice that the tall lush green bushes create a frame for the tattooed man which is a clever way to make your subject, in this case the man, stand out. Obviously, the photographer wants us to look at the man's back. I can't imagine how long it took for the tattoo to be created but it is a beautiful piece of work and the photographer wants us to look right there. Simply stunning this photo is.

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